IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appellant:	Angelina McMullin
Serial No.:	10/607,127
Filed:	06/26/2003

Confirmation No.: 5527

Group Art Unit: 2176

Examiner: Bashore, William L.

Title: FACILITATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF COMPUTER PROGRAMS

CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

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Rosalind Q. Spiller

Rosalind Q. Spiller

Date of Signature: December 17, 2007.

To: Mail Stop Appeal Briefs – Patents
       Commissioner for Patents
       P.O. Box 1450
       Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

APPELLANT'S APPEAL BRIEF TO THE BOARD OF

PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

Appellant is appealing from a Final Rejection dated July 16, 2007, rejecting claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37, all the claims being considered in the above-identified application. A Notice of Appeal, and payment therefor, was timely filed on October 16, 2007 via electronic transmission, and was received by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on October 16, 2007, with an Appeal Brief due by December 17, 2007 (December 16, 2007 falls on a Sunday).

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

This application is assigned to International Business Machines Corporation by virtue of an assignment executed by the inventor on June 25, 2003, and recorded with the United States Patent and Trademark Office at reel 014243, frame 0272, on June 26, 2003. Therefore, the real party in interest is International Business Machines Corporation.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

To the knowledge of Appellant, Appellant's undersigned legal representative, or the assignee, there are no other appeals or interferences which will directly affect or be directly affected by or have a bearing on the Board's decision in this appeal.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

This patent application was filed on June 26, 2003, with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. As filed, the application included thirty-nine (39) claims , of which six (6) were independent claims (i.e., claims 1, 15, 19, 28, 29 and 38).

On December 13, 2005, a first Office Action was mailed that included a restriction requirement. In particular, a restriction was required to one of the following inventions:

> I.   Claims 1-14, 19-27, 29-37, drawn to facilitating development of programs, classified in class 717, subclass 100.

> II.   Claims 15-18, 28, 38-39, drawn to document processing/spreadsheets, classified in class 715, subclass 503.

In response to this Office Action, Appellant filed a Response to Restriction Requirement

on January 13, 2006, in which Appellant provisionally elected Group I, claims 1-14, 19-27 and

29-37 for prosecution.

On March 31, 2006, a second Office Action was mailed that included a rejection of

claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37. In particular, claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 were rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being allegedly obvious over Becerra Jr. (U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2003/0169295) in view of Devine et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication

No. 2002/0095399).

In response to this Office Action, Appellant filed an Amendment and Response to Office

Action on June 28, 2006, in which claims 1, 19 and 29 were amended. No claims were added or

canceled. Therefore, claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 remained pending.

Thereafter, a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment (37 CFR 1.121) was mailed on

September 21, 2006, requesting that the claims be identified with a proper status identifier. In

response thereto, Appellant filed a Response to Non-Compliant Amendment on September 28,

2006.

On December 12, 2006, a third Office Action was mailed that included a rejection of

claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37. In particular, claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 were rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being allegedly obvious over Becerra Jr. (U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2003/0169295) in view of Devine et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication

No. 2002/0095399), and further in view of Mujica et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication

No. 2003/0117447).

In response to this Office Action, Appellant filed an Amendment and Response to Office

Action on April 12, 2007, in which claims 1, 14, 19, 27 and 29 were amended. No claims were

added or canceled. Therefore, claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 remained pending.

On July 16, 2007, a final Office Action was mailed that included a rejection of claims

1-14, 19-27 and 29-37. In particular, claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 were rejected under

35 U.S.C. 103(a), as being allegedly obvious over Becerra Jr. (U.S. Patent Application

Publication No. 2003/0169295) in view of Devine et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication

No. 2002/0095399), and further in view of Mujica et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication

No. 2003/0117447).

On September 17, 2007, Appellant filed an Amendment and Response to Final Office

Action, addressing the rejections in the final Office Action, amending claims 1, 19 and 29, and

canceling claims 3, 15-18, 28, 38 and 39. No claims were added.

In reply to Appellant's Amendment and Response to Final Office Action, an Advisory

Action was mailed on September 26, 2007, indicating that the amendments in the Amendment

and Response to Final Office Action would not be entered. Thus, claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37

remained pending.

In response to the Advisory Action, on October 16, 2007, Appellant filed a Notice of

Appeal.

Therefore, the status of the claims is as follows:

> Claims allowed – None.
>
> Claims objected to – None.
>
> Claims withdrawn – 15-18, 28, 38 and 39;
>
> Claims rejected – 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37; and
>
> Claims canceled – None

Appellant is appealing the rejection of claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37, with each of the following claims being separately argued: 1-3, 5-7 and 14.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

An Amendment and Response to Final Office Action dated September 17, 2007 was filed electronically on September 17, 2007. However, and Advisory Action dated September 26, 2007 indicated that the Amendment was not entered.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

For each claim below, the corresponding structure, material or acts are indicated in parenthesis.

Independent claim 1 recites a method of facilitating development of programs. The method comprises providing an interface of a program (see numbered paragraph 0006, FIG. 2, step 200, as well as numbered paragraphs 0023-0028), including in the program a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the interface to produce output (see numbered paragraph 0006, FIG. 2, step 202, numbered paragraphs 0017, 0020 and

0024-0026, as well as numbered paragraph 0030 and FIG. 4), the spreadsheet of the program being unchangeable by a user (see numbered paragraphs 0006, 0017 and 0029-0030), and displaying the output (see FIG. 1 I/O devices 106, as well as numbered paragraphs 0018 and 0021).

Claim 2 depends from claim 1 and recites that the spreadsheet of the program is hidden from the user (see numbered paragraphs 0017, 0029-0030 and 0050).

Claim 3 depends from claim 1 and recites that having the spreadsheet execute logic of the spreadsheet avoids re-coding of logic of the spreadsheet (see numbered paragraphs 0017 and 0041).

Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and recites that the creating comprises creating an input section of the interface based on an input tab of the spreadsheet (see FIG. 3, step 302, as well as numbered paragraph 0025), and creating an output section of the interface based on a results tab of the spreadsheet (see FIG. 3, step 304, as well as numbered paragraph 0026).

Claim 6 depends from claim 1 and recites that the including comprises enabling interaction between the interface and the spreadsheet (see FIGs. 4 and 5, as well as numbered paragraphs 0030-0044).

Claim 7 depends from claim 6 and recites that enabling interaction comprises providing to the spreadsheet one or more inputs from the interface (see numbered paragraphs 0035-0036, as well as FIG. 5, steps 514-518).

Claim 14 depends from claim 1 and recites replacing by other than the user one or more calculations of the spreadsheet and avoiding recoding of the interface (see numbered paragraph 0051).

Independent claim 19 recites a system of facilitating development of programs. Generally, the means in claim 19 are the computing environment described at numbered paragraphs 0018-0019 and shown in FIG. 1, together with the software program development tool Visual Basic. The system comprises means for providing an interface of a program (see numbered paragraphs 0006, 0008, as well as 0023-0028), means for including in the program a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the interface to produce output (see numbered paragraph 0006, FIG. 2, step 202, numbered paragraphs 0017, 0020 and 0024-0026, as well as numbered paragraph 0030 and FIG. 4), the spreadsheet of the program being unchangeable by a user (see numbered paragraphs 0006, 0017 as well as 0029-0030), and a display for displaying the output (see FIG. 1 I/O devices 106, numbered paragraphs 0018 and 0021).

Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and recites that the spreadsheet of the program is hidden from the user (see numbered paragraphs 0017, 0029-0030 and 0050).

Claim 22 depends from claim 19 and recites that the means for including comprises means for enabling interaction between the interface and the spreadsheet (see FIGs. 4 and 5 and numbered paragraphs 0030-0044, describing use of the computing environment and Visual Basic).

Claim 23 depends from claim 22 and recites that the means for enabling interaction

comprises means for providing to the spreadsheet one or more inputs from the interface (see

numbered paragraphs 0035-0036, as well as FIG. 5, steps 514-518, describing use of the

computing environment and Visual Basic).

Claim 27 depends from claim 19 and recites means for replacing by other than the user

one or more calculations of the spreadsheet and avoiding re-coding of the interface (see

numbered paragraph 0051, describing use of the computing environment and Visual Basic).

Independent claim 29 recites an article of manufacture comprising at least one computer

usable medium having computer readable program code logic to facilitate development of

programs (see numbered paragraph 0053). The computer readable program code logic

comprises providing logic to provide an interface of a program (see numbered paragraph 0006,

FIG. 2, step 200, as well as numbered paragraphs 0023-0028), including logic to include in the

program a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the

interface to produce output (see numbered paragraph 0006, FIG. 2, step 202, numbered

paragraphs 0017, 0020 and 0024-0026, as well as numbered paragraph 0030 and FIG. 4), the

spreadsheet of the program is unchangeable by a user (see numbered paragraphs 0006, 0017 and

0029-0030), and displaying logic for providing the output to a display (see FIG. 1 I/O devices

106, as well as numbered paragraphs 0018 and 0021).

GROUNDS OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

1.   The final Office Action rejected claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 under 35 U.S.C.

§103(a), as allegedly obvious over Becerra, JR. (U.S. Application Publication No.

2003/0169295, provisional filing March 7, 2002) in view of Devine et al. (U.S. Application

Publication No. 2002/0095399, provisional filing August 4, 2000) and further in view of Mujica

et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117447, filed December 21, 2001.).

ARGUMENT

I.   Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Becerra in view of Devine et al. and further in view of Mujica et al.

Claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37:

Claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious

over Becerra in view of Devine et al. and further in view of Mujica et al. Appellant respectfully

requests reversal of this rejection for at least the reasons set forth below.

Non-Analogous Art

The determination that a reference is non-analogous art involves two steps. *Heidelberger*

Druckmaschinen AG v. Hantscho Commercial Products Inc., 30 U.S.P.Q.2d 1377, 1379 (Fed.

Cir. 1994); *In re Wood*, 599 F.2d 1032, 202 U.S.P.Q. 171, 174 (CCPA 1979). First, the

reference is reviewed as to whether it is within the field of the Appellant's endeavor. *Id.*

Second, if the reference is not in the field of endeavor, then a determination is made as to

whether the reference is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem the inventor sought to

solve. *Id.*

In determining what the field of endeavor is, courts have looked to the field of endeavor

set out in a patent or patent application. See, e.g., *In re Wood and Eversole*, 202 U.S.P.Q. 171

(CCPA 1979).

The field of endeavor is set out in the present application at numbered paragraph 0001 as

computer programming in general, and in particular, to facilitating the development of computer

programs. This is also set forth in the preamble of the present claims. In contrast, Becerra is

directed to "the field of computer graphics and, more particularly, to a method and system for

creating custom computer graphic representations of input and output data." See Becerra at

numbered paragraph 0003. In fact, the main embodiment of Becerra involves creating

animations of spreadsheet data that run on a Flash player. Thus, Appellant submits that Becerra

is not within the field of Appellant's endeavor.

Moving on to the second step of the non-analogous art test, it must be determined

whether Becerra is reasonably pertinent to the problem the present invention seeks to solve. As

set forth in the present application in the Background of the Invention, the problem is set out as

the need to utilize the functionality of a spreadsheet within a program without coding a separate

program to capture the logic. Appellant submits that Becerra is not reasonably pertinent to this

problem, since Becerra imports the data, the mathematical operations and the output from a

spreadsheet for the simulation. See Becerra at, for example, numbered paragraph 0011. Thus,

the simulation does not include spreadsheet functionality in the sense that it can be applied to new data, and is truly just a simulation of previously chosen data and output.

Therefore, Appellant submits that Becerra is improperly cited against the present application as non-analogous art.

Applying the non-analogous art test to Devine, Devine is directed to "automatic data retrieval, analysis and reporting (RAR) services to interconnected desktop and mobile computer users, wherein the provision and receipt of the RAR services does not depend on central administration or processing." See Devine at numbered paragraph 0002. Thus, Appellant submits that Devine is not within the field of Appellant's endeavor.

Moving on to the second step of the non-analogous art test, it must be determined whether Devine is reasonably pertinent to the problem the present invention seeks to solve. As set forth in the present application in the Background of the Invention, the problem is set out as the need to utilize the functionality of a spreadsheet within a program without coding a separate program to capture the logic. Appellant submits that Devine is not reasonably pertinent to this problem, since Devine uses the spreadsheet itself for interfacing with the user. See Devine at, for example, numbered paragraph 0449.

Therefore, Appellant submits that Devine is also improperly cited against the present application as non-analogous art.

Applying the non-analogous art test to Mujica, Mujica is directed to locking cells in a spreadsheet. See, for example, the abstract of Mujica. Thus, Appellant submits that Mujica is

not within the field of Appellant's endeavor noted above, i.e., not within the field of facilitating the development of computer programs.

Moving on to the second step of the non-analogous art test, it must be determined whether Mujica is reasonably pertinent to the problem the present invention seeks to solve. As set forth in the present application in the background of the invention, the problem is set out as the need to utilize the functionality of a spreadsheet within a program without coding a separate program to capture the logic. Appellant submits that Mujica is not reasonably pertinent to this problem, since Mujica involves simply locking cells of a spreadsheet. See Mujica at, for example, the abstract.

Therefore, Appellant submits that Mujica is also improperly cited against the present application as non-analogous art.

Claim 1

Claim 1 recites, for example, including in the program a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the interface to produce output.

Against this aspect of claim 1, the final Office Action cites to Becerra in a number of places and Devine at numbered paragraph 0449.

Becerra teaches animating input/output data, and as part of that process, importing input, output, formulas and algorithms from a spreadsheet into the animation. Devine teaches an operator entering values into a spreadsheet, the spreadsheet acting on the values, and publishing

output cells to subscribers. Appellant submits there is no teaching, suggestion or motivation to put a spreadsheet into the Becerra animation, if it could even be done. In that regard, Appellant submits there is no teaching or suggestion in Becerra or Devine of how to put a spreadsheet into Becerra.

As another example, claim 1 recites that the spreadsheet of the program in unchangeable by a user.

Against this aspect of claim 1, the final Office Action cites to Mujica for user locking of some or all cells of a spreadsheet.

Keeping in mind that the spreadsheet is recited to be in the program, importing the concept of locking data cells from Mujica into Becerra would result in the Becerra input data controls not being able to change the input within the predetermined range, which goes against the teaching of Becerra. See Becerra at, for example, numbered paragraphs 0010 and 0011.

Therefore, for at least the reasons noted above, Appellant submits that claim 1 cannot be rendered obvious over Becerra in view of Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

Independent claims 19 and 29 contain limitations similar to that argued above with respect to claim 1. Thus, the remarks above apply equally to those claims. Therefore, Appellant submits claims 19 and 29 also cannot be rendered obvious over Becerra in view of Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

Claim 2

Claim 2 recites that the spreadsheet of the program is hidden from the user. Against claim 2, the Office Action cites to Devine at numbered paragraph 0549, and alleges it would somehow be obvious to import hiding the spreadsheet into Becerra. However, even if for the sake of argument we assume that Devine teaches hiding the spreadsheet, it makes no sense to do so in Becerra, since Becerra codes the spreadsheet logic into the control panel. See Becerra at numbered paragraph 0011 quoted previously. Thus, there is no spreadsheet to hide by the time a user sees the simulation; the logic has already been coded into the control panel. Similar arguments apply to claims 20 and 30.

Therefore, Appellant submits that claims 2, 20 and 30 cannot be made obvious over Becerra in view of Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

Claim 3

Claim 3 recites that having the spreadsheet execute logic of the spreadsheet avoids recoding of logic of the spreadsheet. Against claim 3, the final Office Action indicates that Becerra does not specifically teach that the spreadsheet avoids recoding, instead citing to Devine at numbered paragraph 0549.

However, the cited section of Devine merely indicates un-hiding the spreadsheet application, but keeping the service workbooks hidden in the background. Appellant submits that hiding workbooks has nothing whatever to do with avoiding recoding of the spreadsheet logic in a program interface, only whether the workbooks can be seen. Note that since the

Devine hidden workbooks are being imported into Becerra in the final Office Action, it would

need to be the case that using the hiding in Becerra would avoid recoding the spreadsheet logic

in a program interface. In stark contrast however, Becerra, in the last sentence of numbered

paragraph 0011 specifically teaches recoding the logic into the "control panel:"

> The underlying simulation is generated based on spreadsheet cells selected by the
> user during the control panel creation process. When cells are selected, any
> underlying algorithms or mathematical formulas associating input data values
> with output data values are automatically imported into the control panel file.
> Thus, the algorithms and mathematical relationships originally created using the
> spreadsheet program are automatically replicated in the control panel file as a
> mathematical model of the relationship between selected input and output cells.

Thus, even if, for the sake of argument, Devine's hiding of workbooks were somehow found to

be related to avoiding recoding of the spreadsheet logic into a program interface, the teaching of

Becerra would be in direct conflict therewith. Thus, one skilled in the art would not be

motivated to utilize Devine's workbook hiding.

In addition, Appellant submits submit that using the spreadsheet as a calculation engine,

rather than recoding the program to perform the logic of the spreadsheet, significantly reduces

the development time for such a program, saving time and money. See the present application at

numbered paragraph 0051.

Claim 5

Claim 5 recites creating input and output sections of the interface based on tabs of the

spreadsheet. Against claim 5, the final Office Action alleges that the sheet tabs shown in Becerra

FIG. 4 provides a suggestion to apply tabs to input and result sections. However, the tabs in

Becerra FIG. 4 are part of the spreadsheet itself from which data cells are taken; it is not the interface. Instead, the tabs are simply standard in that spreadsheet program. Moreover, the tabs in Becerra FIG. 4 are not input/output tabs. Thus, Appellant submits there is no such suggestion to one skilled in the art.

Therefore, Appellant submit that claim 5 cannot be rendered obvious over Becerra in view of Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

Claim 6

Claim 6 recites that the including of claim 1 comprises enabling interaction between the interface and the spreadsheet. Against claim 6, the final Office Action cites to Becerra at numbered paragraph 0010.

However, Appellant submits that associating a component of the control panel with a cell of the spreadsheet is simple not the same as *interaction* between a spreadsheet and the interface. Aside from input and output data, formulas and algorithms are taken from the spreadsheet. See Becerra at numbered paragraph 0011.

Therefore, Appellant submits that claim 6 cannot be rendered obvious over Becerra in view of Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

Claims 22 and 32 include limitations similar to that argued above with respect to claim 6. Thus, the remarks above made with respect to claim 6 apply equally thereto. Therefore,

Appellant submits claims 22 and 32 also cannot be rendered obvious over Becerra in view of

Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

Claim 7

     Claim 7 recites that the enabling interaction of claim 6 comprises providing to the

spreadsheet one or more inputs from the interface. Against claim 7, the final Office Action again

cites to Becerra at numbered paragraph 0010.

     However, as noted above with respect to claim 6, Becerra numbered paragraph 0011

indicates that no inputs from the interface (i.e., the control panel) are provided to the spreadsheet.

In fact, Appellant submits that it is just the opposite; that is, input data and other information in

spreadsheet cells are provided to the control panel originating from the spreadsheet.

     Therefore, Appellant submits that claim 7 cannot be rendered obvious over Becerra in

view of Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

     Claims 23 and 33 include limitations similar to that argued above with respect to claim 7.

Thus, the remarks above made with respect to claim 7 apply equally thereto. Therefore,

Appellant submits claims 23 and 33 also cannot be rendered obvious over Becerra in view of

Devine, and in further view of Mujica.

Claim 14

Claim 14 recites replacing by other than the user one or more calculations of the spreadsheet and avoiding recoding of the interface.

Against claim 14, the final Office Action alleges that Becerra teaches replacing calculations via use of the slider, citing numbered paragraph 0042 therein. However, a careful reading of the cited section of Becerra reveals that the sliders change the input values in the associated data cells, and not the underlying mathematical relationships between input and output. Changing the input data certainly changes the output, but does not replace any calculations acting on the input data.

Moreover, since the underlying mathematical relationships are coded in Becerra (see Becerra at 0011 quoted above), any changes thereto will also need to be recoded. Thus, avoiding recoding as claimed cannot be performed in Becerra.

Therefore, Appellant submits that claim 14 cannot be made obvious over Becerra in view of Devine, and in further view of Mujica. A similar limitation exists in claim 27, which also cannot be obviated over the cited art for the same reasons.
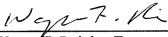
<div align="center">CONCLUSION</div>

In conclusion, Appellants submit that none of claims 1-14, 19-27 and 29-37 are obvious obvious over Becerra Jr. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0169295) in view of Devine et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0095399), and further in view of

Mujica et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0117447). Therefore, Appellant

submits that the final Office Action should be reversed in all respects.

Wayne F. Reinke, Esq.
Attorney for Appellant
Registration No. 36,650

Dated: December 17, 2007.

HESLIN ROTHENBERG FARLEY & MESITI P.C.
5 Columbia Circle
Albany, New York 12203-5160
Telephone: (518) 452-5600
Facsimile: (518) 452-5579

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1.   (Previously Amended) A method of facilitating development of programs, said method comprising:

      providing an interface of a program;

      including in the program a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the interface to produce output, wherein the spreadsheet of the program is unchangeable by a user; and

      displaying the output.

2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the spreadsheet of the program is hidden from the user.

3.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein having the spreadsheet execute logic of the spreadsheet avoids re-coding of logic of the spreadsheet.

4.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the providing comprises creating the interface based on the spreadsheet.

5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the creating comprises:

creating an input section of the interface based on an input tab of the spreadsheet; and

creating an output section of the interface based on a results tab of the spreadsheet.

6.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the including comprises enabling interaction between the interface and the spreadsheet.

7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the enabling interaction comprises providing to the spreadsheet one or more inputs from the interface.

8.   (Original) The method of claim 7, wherein the enabling comprises performing at least one of one or more checks and one or more tasks in preparation of the providing.

9.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling the interface to provide output data from the spreadsheet.

10.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the logic comprises one or more calculations to be performed on data provided by the interface.

11.   (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising enabling the interface to provide one or more results of at least one calculation of the one or more calculations.

12.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the interface provides exclusive input access to the spreadsheet of the program.

13.   (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the interface provides exclusive output access to the spreadsheet of the program.

14.   (Previously Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising replacing by other than the user one or more calculations of the spreadsheet and avoiding re-coding of the interface.

15.   (Withdrawn) A method of facilitating access to spreadsheets, said method comprising:

        using an interface to provide data to a spreadsheet, said interface providing exclusive input access to the spreadsheet; and

        using the interface to obtain data from the spreadsheet, said interface providing exclusive output access to the spreadsheet.

16.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the interface encapsulates the spreadsheet, and wherein the encapsulated spreadsheet is hidden from one or more users.

17.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein the interface encapsulates the spreadsheet, and wherein the encapsulated spreadsheet is unchangeable by one or more users.

18.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 15, wherein at least a portion of the data to be obtained from the spreadsheet is based on one or more calculations performed by the spreadsheet.

19.   (Previously Amended) A system of facilitating development of programs, said system comprising:

        means for providing an interface of a program;

        means for including in the program a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the interface to produce output, wherein the spreadsheet of the program is unchangeable by a user; and

        a display for displaying the output.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the spreadsheet of the program is hidden from the user.

21.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the means for providing comprises means for creating the interface based on the spreadsheet.

22.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the means for including comprises means for enabling interaction between the interface and the spreadsheet.

23.   (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the means for enabling interaction comprises means for providing to the spreadsheet one or more inputs from the interface.

24.   (Original) The system of claim 19, further comprising means for enabling the interface to provide output data from the spreadsheet.

25.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the logic comprises one or more calculations to be performed on data provided by the interface.

26.   (Original) The system of claim 19, wherein the interface provides at least one of exclusive input access and exclusive output access to the spreadsheet of the program.

27.   (Previously Amended) The system of claim 19, further comprising means for replacing by other than the user one or more calculations of the spreadsheet and avoiding re-coding of the interface.

28.   (Withdrawn) A storage to store a computer program, said computer program comprising:

        an interface; and

        a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the interface, wherein the spreadsheet of the program is unchangeable by a user.

29.   (Previously Amended) An article of manufacture comprising:

at least one computer usable medium having computer readable program code logic to facilitate development of programs, the computer readable program code logic comprising:

provide logic to provide an interface of a program;

include logic to include in the program a spreadsheet that is to execute logic of the spreadsheet in response to data of the interface to produce output, wherein the spreadsheet of the program is unchangeable by a user; and

display logic for providing the output to a display.

30.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the spreadsheet of the program is hidden from the user.

31.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the provide logic comprises create logic to create the interface based on the spreadsheet.

32.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the include logic comprises enable logic to enable interaction between the interface and the spreadsheet.

33.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 32, wherein the enable logic comprises provide logic to provide to the spreadsheet one or more inputs from the interface.

34.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, further comprising enable logic to enable the interface to provide output data from the spreadsheet.

35.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the logic of the spreadsheet comprises one or more calculations to be performed on data provided by the interface.

36.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, wherein the interface provides at least one of exclusive input access and exclusive output access to the spreadsheet of the program.

37.   (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 29, further comprising replace logic to replace one or more calculations of the spreadsheet and avoid re-coding of the interface.

38.   (Withdrawn) An article of manufacture comprising:

at least one computer usable medium having computer readable program code logic to facilitate access to spreadsheets, the computer readable program code logic comprising:

use logic to use an interface to provide data to a spreadsheet, said interface providing exclusive input access to the spreadsheet; and

use logic to use the interface to obtain data from the spreadsheet, said interface providing exclusive output access to the spreadsheet.

39.   (Withdrawn) The article of manufacture of claim 38, wherein at least a portion of

the data to be obtained from the spreadsheet is based on one or more calculations performed by

the spreadsheet.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

NONE

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

NONE